AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (cancel) A method for producing nondestructive nerve alterations in an animal that is a model for human persistent neurogenic pain comprising non-traumatically altering a nerve so that a clinical sign or symptom of a physiologic change in the nerve that is indicative of persistent neurogenic pain is produced in the animal.

2. (cancel) The method of claim 1 wherein the non-traumatic alteration of a nerve is due to injection of a gel substance around the nerve.

3. (cancel) The method of claim 2 wherein the gel is collagen.

4. (cancel) The method of claim 1 wherein the clinical sign is a pain behavior or physiological change associated with neurogenic pain.

5. (cancel) A non-traumatic animal model for persistent neurogenic pain wherein a compression is placed around a nerve non-surgically.

6. (cancel) A method for producing nondestructive nerve alterations in an animal that is a model for human persistent neurogenic pain comprising non-traumatically compressing a nerve so that a clinical sign or symptom of nondestructive nerve compression that is indicative of persistent neurogenic pain is produced in the animal, wherein the non-traumatic compression of a nerve is due to injection of a gel substance around the nerve.

7. (cancel) A method for producing nondestructive nerve alterations in an animal that is a model for human persistent neurogenic pain comprising non-traumatically compressing a nerve so that a clinical sign or symptom of nondestructive nerve compression that is indicative of persistent neurogenic pain is produced in the animal, wherein the non-traumatic compression of a nerve is due to injection of a gel substance around the nerve, where the gel is collagen.

8. (cancel) A method for producing nondestructive nerve alterations in an animal that is a model for human persistent neurogenic pain comprising non-traumatically compressing a nerve so that

a clinical sign or symptom of nondestructive nerve compression that is indicative of persistent neurogenic pain is produced in the animal, wherein the non-traumatic compression of a nerve is due to injection of a gel substance around the nerve, where the gel is collagen, and wherein the clinical sign or symptom is a pain behavior.

9. (cancel) An improved method for producing nondestructive nerve alterations in an animal that is a model for human persistent neurogenic pain, wherein the improvement comprises non-traumatically altering a nerve so that a clinical sign or symptom of nondestructive nerve compression that is indicative of persistent neurogenic pain is produced in the animal, wherein the non-traumatic compression of a nerve is due to placement of a gel substance around the nerve, wherein the gel is collagen, and wherein the clinical sign or symptom is a pain behavior.

10. (withdrawn) A product of any of the processes of claims 6 through 9.

11. (withdrawn) The product of claim 10 wherein the product is a drug, treatment, or cell assay.

12. (withdrawn) A method for screening treatments for efficacy in the treatment of persistent neurogenic pain comprising: a) preparing animals for testing by the method of claim 1; b) testing the animals for a first level of pain behavior or selected physiological parameter of nerve function before administration of the agent to be tested; c) administering the agent to be tested; and d) determining a second level of pain behavior or selected physiologic parameters of nerve function after administration of the agent to be tested, wherein an alteration in the level of pain behavior or the selected physiological parameter as compared to the level before administration of the agent is indicative of efficacy of the treatment tested.

13. (withdrawn) The method of claim 12 wherein the pain behavior is mechanical allodynia or mechanical hyperalgesia.

14. (withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein the pain behavior tested is the response to light touch or pin prick.

15. (withdrawn) A method for developing treatments for persistent neuropathic pain in animals comprising screening treatments by the method of claim 12.

16. (withdrawn) Compositions for the treatment of persistent neuropathic pain in animals comprising treatments identified by the method of claim 12.

17. (withdrawn) The compositions of claim 16 wherein said compositions are analgesics or a mixture of a steroid and an anesthetic.

18. (new) A method for producing a non-human mammalian model for persistent neurogenic pain, comprising the step of:

altering a nerve of a mammal non-traumatically and non-transgenically such that a physiologic change is produced around the nerve, the physiologic change being associated with persistent neurogenic pain, thereby producing a non-human mammalian model for persistent neurogenic pain.

19. (new) The method of claim 18, wherein the step of altering comprises injecting a gel substance around the nerve such that a compression is applied to the nerve.

20. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein the gel substance includes collagen.

21. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein the nerve is selected from the group consisting of tibial nerve, saphenous nerve, and other peripheral nerve of lower extremity.

22. (new) The method of claim 21, wherein the physiologic change is selected from the group consisting of allodynia and hyperalgesia.

23. (new) A non-human mammalian model for persistent neurogenic pain comprising an induced, non-traumatic and non-transgenic alteration of a nerve of a mammal, wherein a physiologic change associated with persistent neurogenic pain is produced around the nerve.

24. (new) The non-human mammalian model of claim 23, wherein the non-traumatic and non-transgenic alteration of the nerve is induced by injection of a gel substance around the nerve.

25. (new) The non-human mammalian model of claim 24, wherein the gel substance includes collagen.

26. (new) The non-human mammalian model of claim 24, wherein the nerve is selected from the group consisting of tibial nerve, saphenous nerve, and other peripheral nerve of lower extremity.

27. (new) The non-human mammalian model of claim 26, wherein the physiologic change is selected from the group consisting of allodynia and hyperalgesia.